

Abstract:

The present invention provides an apparatus for transferring a microplate having a plurality of wells arranged in a matrix of lengthwise and crosswise rows relative to stationary dispenser nozzles spaced at regular intervals in the crosswise direction for dispensing a liquid matter into the wells. The number of the nozzles being smaller than the number of the wells in each crosswise row of the microplate. In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the number of the nozzles corresponds to half the number of the wells in a crosswise row. The apparatus comprises, a support plate on which the microplate is mounted, a means for transferring the support plate forward and backward in the lengthwise direction, and a means for shifting the support plate in the crosswise direction between a first position in which each of the odd or even wells in crosswise rows of the microplate is aligned with correspondingly one of the nozzles in the lengthwise direction, respectively, and a second position in which each of the even or odd wells in crosswise rows of the microplate is aligned with correspondingly one of the nozzles in the lengthwise direction, respectively.